

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1- 7 (cancelled).

Claim 8 (currently amended): A waste liquid treatment apparatus (4) for hemodialyzers (20), comprising:

- (i) a transport pipe (3) for transporting a dialysis waste liquid produced from a hemodialyzer (20), wherein said transport pipe is substantially connected to said hemodialyzer;
- (ii) a bacteriostatic treatment tank for restraining the propagation of bacteria caused by the dialysis waste liquid transported by said transport pipe (3);
- (iii) an ozone water ejection nozzle (8) for ejecting ozone water into said bacteriostatic treatment tank (2).

Claim 9 (currently amended): The apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein said transport pipe (3) provides a means to retain the dialysis waste liquid gas-tightly until the dialysis waste reaches the treatment tank (2).

Claim 10 (currently amended): The apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein said transport pipe (3) provides a means to retain the dialysis waste liquid in the substantial absence of air until the dialysis waste reaches the treatment tank (2).

Claim 11 (currently amended): The apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein said ozone water ejection nozzle (8) is constructed to eject ozone water to a dialysis waste liquid outlet of said transport pipe (3) and to the exposed wall surfaces in said treatment tank (2).

Claim 12 (withdrawn): The apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein said apparatus (1) further comprises:

- (iv) an ozone gas supply unit (5) for supplying ozone gas to the dialysis waste liquid in said bacteriostatic treatment tank (2); and

- (v) an ultraviolet lamp (15) for supplying irradiate ultraviolet light to the dialysis waste liquid in said tank (2).

Claim 13 (currently amended): The apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein the apparatus ~~(4)~~ further comprises:

- ~~(iv)~~ (i) an organic substance decomposing treatment tank ~~(40)~~ positioned in ~~the~~ a rear stage of said bacteriostatic treatment tank (2);
- ~~(v)~~ (ii) an ozone gas supply unit ~~(14)~~ positioned to supply ozone gas to the dialysis waste liquid in said organic substance decomposing treatment tank ~~(40)~~; and
- ~~(vi)~~ (iii) ~~the~~ an ultraviolet lamp ~~(15)~~ positioned so as to irradiate ultraviolet light to the dialysis waste liquid in said organic substance decomposing treatment tank ~~(40)~~.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein said irradiate ultraviolet light ~~causes bubbles to form~~ controls the formation of bubbles on the liquid surface of said dialysis waste liquid due to the addition of said ozone gas.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein said apparatus ~~(4)~~ further comprises at least one water cooler ~~(7)~~ and at least one ozone water production unit for dissolving ozone into water to produce ozone water, and wherein said units are positioned in ~~the~~ a front stage of the said bacteriostatic treatment tank (2).

Claim 16 (currently amended): The ~~method~~ apparatus according to Claim 15, wherein ~~the said water source of said ozone water~~ comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of: city water, concentrated water, waste water, and pure water.

Claim 17 (withdrawn): A waste liquid treatment method (1) for hemodialyzers (20), comprising the steps of:

- (i) transporting dialysis waste liquid produced from a hemodialyzer (20) via a transport pipe (3);
- (ii) restraining the propagation of bacteria via a bacteriostatic treatment tank (2) caused by the dialysis waste liquid transported by said transport pipe (3); and

- (iii) ejecting ozone water into said bacteriostatic treatment tank (2) via an ozone water ejection nozzle (8).

Claim 18 (withdrawn): The method according to Claim 17, wherein said transport pipe (3) retains the dialysis waste liquid gas-tightly until the dialysis waste reaches said treatment tank (2).

Claim 19 (withdrawn): The method according to Claim 17, wherein said transport pipe (3) retains the dialysis waste liquid in the substantial absence of air until the dialysis waste reaches said treatment tank (2).

Claim 20 (withdrawn): The method according to Claim 17, wherein said ozone water ejection nozzle (8) ejects ozone water to a dialysis waste liquid outlet of said transport pipe (3) and to the exposed wall surfaces in said treatment tank (2).

Claim 21 (withdrawn): The method according to Claim 17, wherein said method (1) further comprises the steps of:

- (iv) supplying ozone gas with an ozone gas supply unit (5) to the dialysis waste liquid in said bacteriostatic treatment tank (2); and
- (v) irradiating ultraviolet light with an ultraviolet lamp (15) to the dialysis waste liquid in said tank (2).

Claim 22 (withdrawn): The method according to Claim 17, wherein said method further comprises the steps of:

- (iv) positioning an organic substance decomposing treatment tank (10) in the rear stage of said bacteriostatic treatment tank (2);
- (v) positioning an ozone gas supply unit (14) that is supplying ozone gas to the dialysis waste liquid in said organic substance decomposing treatment tank (10); and
- (vi) positioning an ultraviolet lamp (15) to irradiate ultraviolet light to the dialysis waste liquid in said organic substance decomposing treatment tank (10).

Claim 23 (withdrawn): The method according to Claim 22, wherein said ultraviolet lamp (15) irradiates ultraviolet light to cause bubbles to form on the liquid surface of said dialysis waste liquid due to the addition of said ozone gas.

Claim 24 (withdrawn): The method according to Claim 17, wherein a water cooler (7) and an ozone water production unit cooperate to dissolve ozone into water to produce ozone water and wherein said units positioned in the front stage of said bacteriostatic treatment tank (2).

Claim 25 (withdrawn): The method according to Claim 24, wherein said cooler (7) cools down the water, whereby increasing the concentration of the dissolved ozone.

Claim 26 (withdrawn): The method according to Claim 17, wherein said dialysis waste liquid is treated with said ozone, whereby the propagation of bacteria can be restrained, and whereby the formation of plugs can be effectively prevented in both the transport pipe (3) and in the bacteriostatic treatment tank (2).

Claim 27 (withdrawn): The method according to Claim 17, whereby said method will remove at least a portion of odor of said dialysis waste liquid and its contents.

Claim 28 (withdrawn): The method according to Claim 17, wherein said method reduces at least a portion of both the chemical oxygen demand (COD) and biochemical oxygen demand (BOD).